



THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
TABloid NEWSpaper



VOLUME TWENTY-THREE ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

THURSDAY, OCT. 7, 1937

NUMBER 13

DOUBLE DEATH AT FAIR

AUTO UP A TREE



A WEEKEND OF ACCIDENTS on the highways near Roanoke Rapids. Here shown in a photo by Grant for The Roanoke Rapids Herald is a wreck Sunday a half mile from this city at the curve near Jim Gurkin's Station on the Camps Store road. The car is reported to have turned over several times before landing in the position shown, with the rear wheels up the tree. The three occupants, Daniel Howell, Joe Davis and Bill Ray, all of Roanoke Rapids, suffered only minor bruises . . . Not so fortunate were others in this section who had similar experiences from slick roads, fast driving or reckless drivers.

CHARITY DRIVE IS SPONSORED BY TWO CIVIC CLUBS HERE

Kiwanis And Lions In Joint Session Tonight

Plans for the annual drive for funds for Associated Charities in Roanoke Rapids were made at a joint meeting of the Lions and Kiwanis Club here tonight.

The Rev. J. N. Bynum, President of Associated Charities, explained to the two clubs that all funds are now exhausted and that many calls are being made which cannot be answered. He told how the cases were investigated and the money spread out as far as possible to aid those temporarily in need and not on Federal relief or State assistance.

The two clubs agreed to help in the drive for 1937-38 funds which is set for the week of October 25th. A spirit of rivalry exists as the

two clubs compete to see who can raise the most money for Associated Charities during that week.

With Mr. Bynum were the Rev. Kermit Traylor and Lawrence Stell, the committee recently appointed by Associated Charities to handle this year's campaign.

Fred Wilmer, Dr. Bahnsen Weathers and R. H. Hundley were voted in as new members of the Kiwanis Club. M. C. Newsom is the High School Senior Member for the month.

D. M. Barnes of Norfolk was the guest of the Lions Club.

PROTEST FILLING STATION

See Pg. 9, Sec. A

INJURED IS TAKEN TO RICHMOND

Mrs. Sarah Brown Jeanette, injured in an automobile wreck near Roanoke Rapids Sunday afternoon, was taken to a Richmond hospital in an ambulance today for special treatment. Both jaws are broken and one ear punctured.

Amanda Martin, colored woman, injured in the same wreck, who taught school at Carters Chapel near Littleton, was no better today, her condition remaining unchanged. Both legs were broken and were put in casts yesterday.

(COMPLETE STORY INSIDE)

No Word Yet From Family Of Dead Man

The body of Leonard Chamberlin, who was electrocuted at the Fair Grounds Friday night, is still in the receiving vault of Williams Funeral Home here.

Up until this afternoon, nothing had been heard from the family of the deceased. His brother left here Saturday morning to make funeral arrangements but has not been heard from.

The parents of the deceased are Mr. and Mrs. McDonald Chamberlin of Oneonta, N. Y.

If no word is heard tonight or Friday morning, Mr. Williams plans to get in touch with the family, with the possibility that the brother never reached home.

Mrs. Adkins Funeral Is Yesterday

Mrs. Ora Newsome Adkins, 39, wife of Jessie L. Adkins of Weldon, died at the Roanoke Rapids Hospital Tuesday. Funeral services were held yesterday at Williams Funeral Home by the Rev. A. J. Trolinger, with interment in the family cemetery near Littleton.

Surviving are the husband and six children: Mrs. Wilton Langston, Elizabeth, Edna, Bessie Lee, J. B. and J. V. Adkins, all of Weldon; a brother, J. P. Newsom; 3 sisters, Mrs. W. W. Pulley, Youngsville, Mrs. J. D. White, Norfolk, Mrs. Virgie Pulley, Durham.

PROMINENT FARMER SUICIDE

(SEE PAGE 8, SEC. A)

2 MIDWAY WORKERS ELECTROCUTED AT FAIRGROUNDS HERE

Accidental electrocution was the verdict arrived at by the Coroner's jury which viewed the bodies of Ernest Tidwell of Roanoke Rapids and Leonard Chamberlin of Oneonta, N. Y. and gathered information concerning their deaths at the Halifax County Fairgrounds Friday night. The two men were electrocuted while they were working at the fairgrounds, Tidwell on a kiddie car concession and Chamberlin on one of the two ferris wheels.

Just as the tight-wire performer was reaching the climax of his act, walking blind-folded across the high wire before the largest crowd of the week, there was a flash at the ferris wheel at which Chamberlin was working. The lights went out. Came on. There was a second flash at the ferris wheel after which a transformer near there burst into flames.

Then Chamberlin was discovered near the ferris wheel and Tidwell near the kiddie cars. Both were unconscious. It was found they had been electrocuted and first aid crews of the Virginia Electric & Power Co. and local doctors worked over the two men from the time of the accident, about 9:30 p.m., until midnight. Artificial respiration was given constantly for several hours. A pulmotor was rushed here from the Rocky Mount Fire Dept. At midnight, the two men were pronounced dead.

Ernest Tidwell, 21 years old, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tidwell of 1009 Hamilton St. He was a former textile worker here but was unemployed at the time and had been hired at the Kiddie Car concession. His father was working at Aulander at the time and hastened here when notified of his son's death. Surviving are his parents, a brother Norwood, and a half-brother, M. E. Moseley. Funeral services were held at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon at Williams Funeral Home by Rev. J. J. Boone and interment was in Northampton County near Jackson.

Leonard Chamberlin, 19, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald Chamberlin of Oneonta, N. Y. He was employed by Adolph Kaus, owner of the midway shows, as second hand on a ferris wheel and had joined the show about two months ago in the state of New York. A brother, Albert, was also working with the carnival and left here Saturday morning to go home and make funeral arrangements.

Electricians say the accident could have been caused from a series of short circuits in the wiring leading to the various riding devices, these short circuits causing a backward surge of current to the transformer, with results similar to what occurred Friday night. By unexplained means, some of the ride equipment became charged with electricity and the two men, probably standing on the damp ground, touched the charged e-

quipment and completed a circuit thru their bodies.

Experts say that electricity is always seeking to ground and those persons who were on the ferris wheel were in no danger, even with the wheel charged, so long as they had no contact with the ground.

It is possible that Chamberlin was standing in a damp spot on the ground and touched a lever or some other part of the machine at the instant it was charged, thus completing the circuit and causing his electrocution.

A little more is known about Tidwell's death, according to those who were near the kiddie car concession. It is said one man whose child was on one of the cars, reached over and picked his child off when the lights went out. He remembers Tidwell standing near him also engaged in taking children from the cars. This man says he saw Tidwell lean over the chain which ran around the concession and reach for child with one hand while placing the other hand on a pole or rail. He never reached the child but remained fixed to what-

FOOTBALL FRIDAY

(SEE PAGE 8, SEC. B)

ever he was holding until he slumped to the ground. On his legs were the marks of the chain burns. It was pointed out that he must have touched a charged piece of the equipment while against the chain, and the current thru his body could have charged the chain which was grounded.

In the crowded grandstand a short distance away, the crowd was kept in some semblance of order by repeated requests over the Giant Voice and the stand, now dark, was vacated without any serious injury to anybody. An immense crowd gathered around the spot where the doctors and first aid crew were working on the two men but there was no disorder, the crowd having been sobered by the rapid-fire events not on the program.

The Coroner's jury consisted of J. L. Parker, D. L. Traynham, G. T. Hobbs, W. H. Brown, of Roanoke Rapids, and Messrs. Shaw and Garner of Weldon.